

# The Atlantic alliance: will the U.S. let Kissinger and Andropov destroy it?

by Susan Welsh

Soviet General Secretary Yuri Andropov is preparing an offer to the Federal Republic of Germany which may rip apart Western Europe's alliance with the United States before most Americans know what is happening. According to a leak from Hungarian officials published in *The Observer* July 31, the Soviet Union is preparing a new "peace offensive" in Europe, whose "long-term target, they believe, will be a united and neutralized Europe with a reunited Germany at its heart." The "leak" comes from Andropov himself: it followed a series of meetings in Moscow between the Soviet leader and Hungary's Janos Kadar, which resulted in "complete identity of views on all subjects discussed." Andropov is known as the "Hungarian connection" in Moscow, dating to his tenure in Budapest during the 1950s.

The Russians' long-range strategic plan, reports *The Observer*, "will entail fundamental changes in their policies towards Eastern Europe and the West, including their past opposition to German reunification. The reason is the recognition by the Soviet Union that the development of nuclear missiles has destroyed the rationale for maintaining the states of Eastern Europe as a 'buffer' between Russia and the West. However loyal Poland and Hungary and the rest might be in a nuclear war, they could do nothing to prevent the annihilation of the Soviet Union."

How will Western Europe and West Germany in particular respond to the Soviet "peace offensive"? The political institutions which have governed the continent since World War II have been virtually destroyed, contrary to prevalent wishful thinking in the United States.

The Federal Republic of Germany, the heart of NATO, is undergoing a political transformation as far-reaching as that which changed Weimar Germany into the Nazi state. Many U.S. conservatives take at face value Christian Democratic Chancellor Helmut Kohl's professions of staunch pro-Americanism, and wishfully anticipate that the "hot autumn" of riots that the KGB-financed peace movement has promised for Germany will not materialize. But the political institutions of the Federal Republic now resemble a house infested with termites: to the outside observer the structure appears intact, but only up to the moment that a stiff wind comes along and the whole thing collapses into a pile of dust. Both "left" and "right" in West Germany are converging on vari-

ations of a scheme known as *Mittleuropa*—a central European entity independent of the United States, including a reunified Germany achieved through a deal with the Russians. The economic and other underpinnings for such a deal are currently under negotiation, even as official communiqués insist that business is proceeding as usual.

In Italy, the June 26-27 elections which brought Socialist Bettino Craxi to power signify a new regime of corporatist austerity which the international press is widely comparing to that of Benito Mussolini, whose centennial is currently being celebrated with great fanfare. Craxi, who is also viewed by some in Washington as a U.S. asset, announced as one of his first post-election statements that he wants to go to Moscow to meet with General Secretary Andropov, to try to bring about a deal which could avoid the deployment of U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe at the end of this year. Meanwhile high-level discussions recently took place in Moscow between Soviet economic officials and Italian industrialists, including the head of Confindustria, the Italian industrial association, aimed at significantly expanding Italo-Soviet trade. (Bilateral trade volume rose by 35 to 40 percent from 1981 to 1982.) Agreement was reached on a multibillion dollar contract for Italy's leading auto producer, FIAT, to build a huge car production plant the size of the famous Togliattigrad facility. Two other giant projects are under discussion.

The principal obstacle to the Soviet grab for Europe is France, with its fierce national commitment to its independent nuclear deterrent, the *force de frappe*. But the French government is weak and fissured, the economy is sinking through the floor, and a wave of incendiary violence has broken out throughout southern Europe, even before Germany's "hot autumn" gets fully in gear. In Corsica, southern France, Spain, Greece, Calabria, Sardinia, and southern Yugoslavia, hundreds of hectares of forest are on fire, traced in several instances to arson activities of political separatist groups.

## Soviet manipulations in Germany

The Soviet Union is attempting to delay the start of the U.S. missile deployment in Europe at least six months past the December 1983 deadline, to give centrifugal tendencies

in Europe more time to develop and to place the confrontation over installation of the missiles right in the middle of the U.S. presidential election campaign. Behind-the-scenes diplomacy in Europe now is intense, following on Chancellor Kohl's July 4 visit to Moscow.

While offering economic deals and the plum of reunification, Moscow is warning of dire consequences if Western Europe fails to fall into line. A front-page commentary in *Pravda* Aug. 1 stated that West Germany has the most to lose if NATO goes ahead with the deployment of "first strike weapons"—the U.S. missiles. "The military danger to the Federal Republic would increase many times. Its widely developed relations with the Socialist states would be threatened." Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dmitri Ustinov warned in *Pravda* July 31 of "countermeasures" which the U.S.S.R. would take, and denounced the United States for

---

---

*Numerous analysts are predicting that the Kohl government will not survive the coming social explosion. Old Swiss Nazi Armin Mohler of the Siemens Foundation is calling for a "national front regime" that would decouple West Germany from NATO.*

---

---

allegedly having a "first strike" policy. Ustinov attacked President Reagan's policy of developing beam weapons for anti-ballistic missile defense, saying that "space is being threatened with nuclear strike weapons under the rubric of laser and beam installations. . . . Such a country is the United States of America."

Germany's response to the Soviet carrot-and-stick tactics is a widespread, nearly pervasive longing for an independent *Mittleuropa*—which in reality would be a Soviet buffer state. What *EIR* has reported on these developments for the past several months is now a topic of daily discussion in the pages of the German press and at conferences throughout Europe. For example, Duino Castle in Trieste will be the setting in September for an international conference on "*Mittleuropa*—Yesterday and Today," sponsored by Austrian President Kirschlaeger and Italian President Pertini. The conference will discuss how to redraw the map of Europe to "overcome the artificial structure of the Yalta System" which has divided Europe since 1945.

The *Mittleuropa* agitation comes from both the Protestant "left" and the Catholic "right" in Germany. Egon Bahr,

the Lutheran theoretician of Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik* and leading disarmament spokesman of the Social Democratic Party, declared in a recent interview to *Stern* magazine: "We are the hostages of both superpowers. I cannot close my eyes to the fact that the two German states are the combat zone for the superpowers." Bahr, who was recently in Moscow, has called on the Social Democrats to join the peace movement in the streets this fall to prevent the installation of the U.S. missiles.

### **Role of the churches**

Bahr's line dominates the Evangelical (Lutheran) Church in West Germany, which in turn has been a principal bridge to East Germany throughout the postwar period. This has become so apparent that defense ministry spokesman Lothar Ruehl gave an interview Aug. 2 to the *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung* calling on the church to clarify whether or not it still conforms to the constitution of the Federal Republic, which makes it the right and duty of the state to defend its citizens.

Bahr finds strange co-thinkers these days, most notably Franz-Josef Strauss of the predominantly Catholic and ultra-conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) party in Bavaria. Strauss masterminded an extraordinary one billion deutschemark (\$.39 billion) government credit guarantee for loans to East Germany, approved by the federal cabinet at the end of July. Strauss emphasized that this is only part of a larger political arrangement, and CSU opponents of Strauss's move report that a total of 4 billion deutschemarks is under negotiation. No sooner was the deal clinched than Strauss went to East Germany for a first-ever "private meeting" with Socialist Unity Party chief Erich Honecker. The contents of the meeting were not disclosed.

This then is the setting for the "hot autumn" of violence which is ready to take off. Numerous analysts are predicting that the Kohl government will not survive the coming social explosion, and a replacement will have to be found. Armin Mohler, the Munich-based old Swiss Nazi who runs the Siemens Foundation and espouses the ideal of a "conservative revolution" (known in plain English as "fascism") is calling for the creation of a "national front regime" that would include Kohl or some other middle-of-the-roader and Egon Bahr from the Social Democrats. Mohler's Grand Coalition would preside over the decoupling of Germany from NATO and from the United States, and the destruction of German industry and scientific potential. Isn't Mohler worried by the convergence of his views with those of the Left? Not at all, he told an interviewer. "I am very much amused that the right-wing and left-wing extremes are shoulder to shoulder in this movement."

There is no force within Europe today that is strong enough to change the current political dynamic. If a shift is to come, Americans will have to wake up and mobilize to regain what this country fought World War II to achieve in the first place.